

tap combiners for generating combined signals, each tap combiner combining an output signal from the tap circuit with a data signal from the packetizer to provide one of the combined signals; and

a plurality of subscriber ports for transmitting the combined signals from the tap, each subscriber port coupled to one of the tap combiners [for transmission from the tap to the subscribers].

13. (Amended) The communication system of claim 11, wherein the system combiner comprises a directional coupler.

16. (Amended) The communication system of claim 11, wherein the output signals from the tap circuit include information transmitted at greater than 50 MHz.

17. (Amended) The communication system of claim 11, wherein the data included in the data packets from the [tap] packetizer is transmitted at less than 50 MHz.

21. (Amended) The communication system of claim 11, wherein the [output] combined signals provided by the tap [circuit] are transmitted to subscribers over coaxial cables.

23. (Amended) The communication system of claim 11, wherein the [tap further comprises:

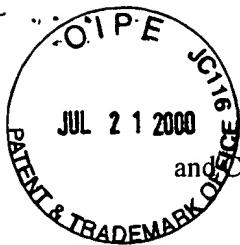
a directional coupler coupled to an output of the packetizer and to an output of the tap circuit for combining the output signals and the data packets for transmission to subscribers over coaxial cables] tap combiners include diplex filters for combining lower frequency data signals with higher frequency output signals to generate the combined signals that are transmitted from the tap.

## REMARKS

The present application is a continuation-in-part of parent application U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 09/170,855, which has been abandoned.

Claims 1-23 are pending in the present application prior to entry of the foregoing amendment.

By the present amendment, Claims 1-6, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17, 21, and 23 have been amended,



and Claims 8, 9, 15, and 22 have been canceled.

Applicants have also amended the specification to claim priority to the parent application.

Based upon the foregoing Amendment, it is believed that the subject patent application is now in condition for allowance. Applicants submit that no additional fee is due at this time. Should it be determined that any additional fee is due or any excess fee has been received, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required or credit any overpayment to deposit account #19-0761.

Should the Examiner have any comments or suggestions that would place the subject patent application in better condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted:

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